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Honorable Walter F. George  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

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DATE: 1 MAY 1981 REVIEWER:

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Dear Senator George:

This is in reply to your letter of 23 July 1955 requesting comments on S. 2614, introduced 22 July 1955 by Senator Smith of New Jersey, "To establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence".

It is my understanding that the proposed legislation to which you refer was introduced pursuant to a recommendation of the Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government in their report on Intelligence, reading as follows: "That the Congress consider creating a joint Congressional Committee on Intelligence similar to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy".

Comparable bills have previously been introduced by Senator Mansfield and certain other members of the Congress.

At the present time the Armed Services Committees and the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House deal with Central Intelligence Agency matters, the former being concerned with legislative and related problems, and the latter with our annual budgetary and other financial requirements.

In addition, Senator Russell as Chairman of the Armed Services Committee has designated a small group of the senior members of that committee to meet with CIA representatives from time to time to consider those phases of our work of interest to his committee.

Insofar as CIA is concerned, we have felt that through the committees above mentioned, we have had ample opportunity to secure full consideration of any legislative and related problems affecting the Agency and we have not felt the need for the establishing of any committees to replace or supplement them. As you can appreciate, it is important from the point of view of security to restrict, to the extent feasible, the number of persons who are knowledgeable of the sensitive operations of this Agency. The relations which we have had with the committees of the Congress have been entirely consistent with this security need.

ER

In case a Joint Congressional Committee to deal with the CIA should be established, we would, of course, give it our fullest cooperation, but I would point out that as the Central Intelligence Agency by the National Security Act of 1947 (Public Law 253, 80th Congress) is "established under the National Security Council," the views of the latter on this subject would be controlling on us insofar as the Executive Branch of the Government is concerned.

Both the recommendation of the Hoover Commission and the scope of S. 2614 cover more than the Central Intelligence Agency alone and relate to all aspects of the foreign intelligence activities of the Government.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

O/IG/LBKirkpatrick:rm - 1 August 1955  
Rewritten AWDulles:ha/kp - 16 August 1955

Distribution:

- Orig & 1 - Addressee
- 2 - signing official (w/basic)
- 1 - Legislative Counsel
- 1 - IG

DRAFT

15 August 1955

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*Copy to final form*

The Honorable Walter F. George  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

*in the  
report on  
Intelligence*

Dear Senator George:

This is in reply to your letter of 23 July 1955 requesting comments on S. 2614, introduced 22 July 1955 by Senator Smith of New Jersey, "To establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence".

It is my understanding that the proposed legislation to which you refer was introduced pursuant to a recommendation of the Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, reading as follows: "That the Congress consider creating a joint Congressional Committee on Intelligence similar to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy".

Comparable bills have ~~also~~ <sup>previously</sup> been introduced by Senator Mansfield and certain other members of the Congress.

At the present time the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and House, and the Appropriations ~~Committees~~ <sup>Committee</sup> have ~~dealt~~ <sup>been concerned</sup> with Central Intelligence Agency matters, the former dealing with ~~any~~ legislative and related problems, and the latter with our budgetary and other financial requirements. <sup>annual</sup>

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In addition, Senator Russell, <sup>as</sup> Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, has designated a small group of the senior members of <sup>that</sup> ~~his~~ committee to meet with CIA representatives from time to time to consider those phases of our work of interest to his committee. Insofar as CIA is concerned, we have felt that through the ~~work~~ <sup>example</sup> of the committees above mentioned, we have had ~~full~~ opportunity to secure ~~full~~ consideration of any legislative and related problems affecting the Agency and we have not felt the need ~~for~~ <sup>any</sup> for the establishing of any committees to replace or supplement ~~them~~ <sup>them</sup>, ~~the Congressional committees with which we already have contact.~~

As you <sup>can</sup> appreciate, it is important from the point of view of security to restrict, to the extent feasible, the number of persons who are knowledgeable of the sensitive operations of this Agency. The <sup>requests</sup> ~~requests~~ which we have <sup>had with</sup> ~~so far received from~~ the committees of Congress have been entirely consistent with this security need.

In case the Congress should feel that a <sup>Joint Congressional</sup> ~~further~~ Committee to deal with the CIA <sup>should be established</sup> ~~was required~~, we would <sup>of course, sure to</sup> ~~not be disposed to oppose~~ <sup>fuller cooperation</sup> it, but I would point out that as the Central Intelligence Agency <sup>by</sup> ~~under~~ the National Security Act of 1947 (Public Law 253, 80th Congress) is "established under the National Security Council," the views of

*in so far as the  
Executive Branch  
of the Government  
is concerned,*

the latter on this subject would be controlling on us.

I would point out <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~ the recommendation of the Hoover Commission and the scope of S. 2614 <sup>is even more</sup> ~~is broader~~ than the Central Intelligence Agency alone and related to all aspects of the foreign intelligence activities of the Government.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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Remarks:

*Believe this makes the point without being in direct opposition.*

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Walter F. George  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator George:

This is in reply to your letter of 23 July 1955 requesting comments on S. 2614, introduced 22 July 1955 by Senator Smith of New Jersey, "To establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence".

We have consistently taken the position that it is a matter of Congressional prerogative to determine whether there should be a special committee to watch over the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and related organizations. However, there are certain matters peculiar to intelligence operations which should be given due consideration before the Congress establishes a Joint Committee.

In the first place, the security aspects of intelligence operations are of paramount importance. ~~All intelligence organizations~~ throughout the world are constantly on the lookout for information concerning their rivals. Even the smallest piece of information, no matter how trivial, may provide valuable leads. This would include the number of employees of an organization, the size of the budget, the number of automobiles it utilizes, the areas in which it has representatives, and any indication of how much it knows. While it is naturally assumed that all members of the Congress will be appropriately discreet, it should be noted that such a committee would have staff members who would have to be very thoroughly screened.

The problems relating to a staff of a Joint Committee on Intelligence are not inconsequential. It should be noted that the staff would undoubtedly spend considerable time in the intelligence organizations and consequently would gain a broad knowledge of the most sensitive type of work. This would raise a very fundamental question as to how complete their knowledge should be, and I might point out that there are certain operations known only to two or three ~~individuals in this organization.~~

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Undoubtedly your committee will wish to consider the effect that the establishment of a Joint Committee on Intelligence would have on the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government. Throughout history intelligence has been used to keep the policy makers informed concerning the capabilities and intentions of other nations. Properly speaking, intelligence should be gathered before policy is made. As you can readily see, this raises a rather complex matter of intra-governmental relations.

I should also like to point out the relations of the Central Intelligence Agency to other committees of the Congress. As you are aware, Senator Russell, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, has established a subcommittee to deal with the CIA composed of himself and Senators Johnson (Texas), Byrd, Bridges and Saltonstall. The Appropriations Committees in both Houses hold hearings on the CIA budget each year and go into considerable detail in regard to our activities. We also come under the jurisdiction of the Committees on Government Operations, and have always endeavored to answer any questions raised by these bodies. The important aspect of this is whether these committees would yield their jurisdiction to a Joint Committee on Intelligence.

This leads to the last point which I would like to mention and that is the number of individuals who would become knowledgeable of our highly sensitive operations. Senator Smith's bill, which is similar to other bills introduced during the recent session, would establish a committee composed of nine members from each House. Should this number be added to the number from Appropriations, Armed Services, and Government Operations, it would appear to create a very large group who were aware of secret activities.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further with you, or to provide you with any additional details which you might desire.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director



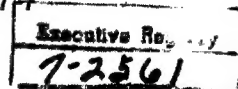
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WALTER F. GEORGE, CHAIRMAN  
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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS



July 23, 1955.

Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles :

Enclosed is a copy of S. 2614, introduced July 22, 1955 by Senator Smith of New Jersey, " To establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence. "

It will be appreciated if the Committee on Foreign Relations may have the views of your Agency on this measure.

Sincerely yours,

*Walter F. George*  
Walter F. George

Chairman.

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84TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2614

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 1955

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was read twice  
and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That there is hereby established a Joint Committee on  
4       Foreign Intelligence to be composed of nine members of  
5       the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate,  
6       and nine members of the House of Representatives to be  
7       appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
8       In each instance not more than five members shall be  
9       members of the same political party. Vacancies in the  
10      membership of the joint committee shall not affect the power  
11      of the remaining members to execute the functions of the  
12      joint committee, and shall be filled in the same manner

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1 as in the case of the original appointment. The joint com-  
2 mittee shall select a chairman and a vice chairman from  
3 among its members, and shall determine the number of  
4 members to constitute a quorum for the transaction of  
5 business.

6 SEC. 2. (a) The joint committee shall make continuing  
7 studies of all aspects of the foreign intelligence activities  
8 of the Government. The Director of the Central Intelli-  
9 gence Agency shall keep the joint commission fully and  
10 currently informed with respect to the Agency's activities.  
11 All bills, resolutions, and other matters in the Senate or  
12 the House of Representatives relating primarily to the Cen-  
13 tral Intelligence Agency or its activities shall be referred  
14 to the joint committee. The members of the joint committee  
15 who are Members of the Senate shall from time to time  
16 report to the Senate, and the members of the joint com-  
17 mittee who are Members of the House of Representatives  
18 shall from time to time report to the House, by bill or  
19 otherwise, their recommendations with respect to matters  
20 within the jurisdiction of their respective Houses which are  
21 (1) referred to the joint committee or (2) otherwise within  
22 the jurisdiction of the joint committee.

23 (b) The joint committee, or any duly authorized sub-  
24 committee thereof, is authorized to hold such hearings, to sit

1 and act at such places and times, to require, by subpoena or  
2 otherwise, the attendance of such witnesses and the produc-  
3 tion of such books, papers, and documents, to administer  
4 such oaths, to take such testimony, to procure such printing  
5 and binding, and to make such expenditures as it deems  
6 advisable. The cost of stenographic services to report such  
7 hearings shall not be in excess of 25 cents per hundred  
8 words. The provisions of sections 102 to 104, inclusive,  
9 of the Revised Statutes shall apply in case of any failure  
10 of any witness to comply with a subpoena or to testify when  
11 summoned under authority of this section.

12 (c) The joint committee is empowered to appoint and  
13 fix the compensation of such experts, consultants, technicians,  
14 and clerical and stenographic assistants as it deems nec-  
15 essary and advisable, but the compensation so fixed shall  
16 not exceed the compensation prescribed under the Classifi-  
17 cation Act of 1949, as amended, for comparable duties. The  
18 joint committee is authorized to utilize the services, infor-  
19 mation facilities, and personnel of the departments and es-  
20 tablishments of the Government.

21 SEC. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated  
22 such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions  
23 of this Act.

84TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S. 2614**

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**A BILL**

To establish a Joint Committee on Foreign  
Intelligence.

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By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey

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JULY 22, 1955

Read twice and referred to the Committee on  
Foreign Relations